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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Joshi et al. Group Art Unit: 1714  
Serial No.: 10/617,165 Docket: 1302-49 (US 142693-6)  
Filed: July 8, 2003 Dated: October 28, 2005  
For: SILICA-RUBBER MIXTURES HAVING IMPROVED HARDNESS

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant's duty of disclosure, it is respectfully requested that the references listed in the attached form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the above-identified application. A copy of each reference is attached hereto.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 28, 2005.

Dated: October 28, 2005

*Maria Goldman*  
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Maria Goldman

The listed items were cited by the European Patent Office in a counterpart application, namely Appln. No. 03 763 461.5 - 1220. A copy of the Registered Letter (EPO Form 2002) dated September 29, 2005 is attached hereto.

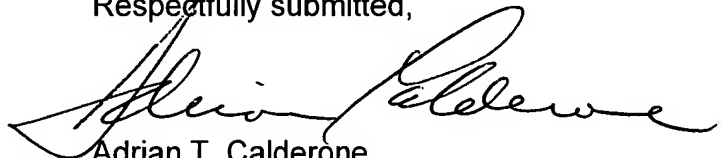
The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2)**

Applicants submit that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application no more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

Respectfully submitted,



Adrian T. Calderone  
Reg. No. 31,746  
Attorney for Applicants

**DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP**  
333 Earle Ovington Blvd.  
Uniondale, NY 11553  
(516) 228-8484  
(516) 228-8516

ATC:mg

Form, PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 1302-49 (US 142693-6)	SERIAL NO. 10/617,165
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANTS Joshi et al.	
		FILING DATE July 8, 2003	GROUP ART UNIT 1714

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	WO 99/31178	June 24, 1999	PCT			X	

## OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		Registered Letter (EPO Form 2002) and EPO Form 2906 re Appln. No. 03 763 461.5 -1220, dated September 29, 2005.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to ap